

**SERVING COMMUNITIES THROUGH  
LOCAL HEALTHY FOOD & JOB TRAINING**



**GROWING  
HOME**

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**Urban Farm & Workforce Development  
2021 Impact Report**

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# ABOUT GROWING HOME

**We believe everyone deserves access to a good job and good food.**

We are a non-profit urban farm & workforce development center serving Greater Englewood through our life-changing paid workforce development programs & local, fresh affordable food and education programs.

Englewood & many communities of color in Chicago need investment. The effects of structural racism, historic segregation and systemic disinvestment continue to challenge our communities and neighborhoods today. As a means of restorative justice, we are committed to providing significant re-investment in Englewood and serve as a resource through our Food Access and Workforce Development programs.



## AT-A-GLANCE

**WE'RE THE FIRST AND ONLY HIGH-PRODUCTION USDA-CERTIFIED ORGANIC URBAN FARM IN CHICAGO! WE MAKE ORGANIC PRODUCE ACCESSIBLE & AFFORDABLE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS. WE PAY! ONLY A HANDFUL OF JOB PROGRAMS PAY THEIR PARTICIPANTS. WE HELP PEOPLE STAY OUT OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM. WE ARE A BLACK- AND WOMEN-LED NON-PROFIT WITH MANY STAFF MEMBERS WHO ARE ALUMNI OF OUR PROGRAM, ENSURING OUR WORK TRULY REFLECTS THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY.**







# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Growing Home's Employment Training Program supports those with the highest barriers to employment as we work to increase employment access equity in Chicago.

## Our Programs

- A 12-week paid transitional employment and job readiness program for adults with barriers to employment (includes robust Classroom Curriculum, On-The-Job Training & Wrap-Around Services)
- 34+ Employer Partner Program
- Lifetime Alumni Resources & Network
- \*NEW\*: Apprenticeship Program with Olive Harvey College
- \*NEW\*: Free Neighborhood Computer & Job Resource Center



## Our Participants in 2021

- 64% live in Englewood
- Range in age from 18 to 62, a median age of 32
- 90% are African American or Black
- 45% are female, and 55% are male
- 50% have minor children
- 87% have been justice-involved
- 100% of our participants are low-income



## OUR IMPACT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

76

Production Assistants Enrolled in 2021  
(38% increase from previous years)

500+

Alumni served through our on-going post graduation support

71%

Percentage that our Employment Training Program reduces recidivism compared to Illinois state average

78%

of Graduates report decrease in health & mental health barriers

"I was getting every door closed in my face until I came to Growing Home. Growing Home teaches you the information you'll need to bring the best out of yourself."

- ANTONIO, 2021 GRADUATE -





# FRESH FOOD ACCESS & EDUCATION

Growing Home's Food Access program works on many levels to support the Englewood economy and create a healthier food system that addresses the effects and persistence of food insecurity.

## Our Programs

### Fresh Food

- Local Produce Stands with Double Value for Public Assistance & Senior Coupons
- CSA Program of Bi-Weekly Food Boxes
- Weekly Deliveries to local Food Pantry
- Veggie RX Partnerships
- Covid-19 Emergency Food Relief Initiative
- Pop-ups, Donation Events

### Education

- In-Person & Online Cooking Demos & Recipes
- Adult & Youth Workshops
- Volunteering & Tours
- Community Events: Open Houses and seasonal festivals, i.e. HarvestFest, WinterFest
- Experimental Community Garden

## Our Customers & Participants

- Residents + Seniors in & around Englewood
- Female headed single family homes
- Shelters & Soup Kitchens
- Food Depository patrons
- Youth & Adult Groups



## OUR IMPACT FOOD ACCESS

**30,186+**

lbs grown of fresh,  
organic vegetables

**61%**

of our distribution in  
Greater Englewood  
(185% increase from 2019)

**48,648**

individual servings  
administered through our  
food & education programs

"Thank you very much for promoting good health. Thank you for all you have done and all you are going to do. God Bless."

**- 2021 LOCAL CSA CUSTOMER -**



# OUR PARTNERS OUR FUTURE WORK

Our essential work is only possibly because of our tremendous support from our Growing Home family, friends, donors and partners.

## Our Employer Partners

To see our full list of employer partners, please visit our website: [growinghomeinc.org/our-impact](http://growinghomeinc.org/our-impact)



## Our Community Partners



## Our Future Projects

- Full-Time Resource Center
- Employer Partner Growth
- Farm Expansion
- Growing Home Food Buggy





# GET INVOLVED GROWING HOME

Click below to get involved with Growing Home and be part of a team that is working to ensure Everyone has access to a Good Job and Good Food:

[VOLUNTEER](#)

[TOUR OUR FARMS](#)

[BE AN EMPLOYER PARTNER](#)

[PURCHASE OUR PRODUCE](#)

[JOIN OUR ASSOCIATE BOARD](#)

[JOIN OUR TEAM](#)

[BE A MONTHLY DONOR](#)

[SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER](#)










# GROWING HOME

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